

### In the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a high tensile strength hot-rolled steel sheet having superior strain aging hardenability with a BH of 80 MPa or more, a  $\Delta$ TS of 40 MPa or more, and a tensile strength of 440 MPa or more comprising the steps of:

heating a steel slab to 1,000°C or more, the steel slab comprising: in percent by mass,

0.15% or less of C;

2.0% or less of Si;

3.0% or less of Mn;

0.08% or less of P;

0.02% or less of S;

0.02% or less of Al;

0.0050% to 0.0250% of N; and

optionally further comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of the following Group a to Group d, the ratio N (mass%)/Al (mass%) being 0.3 or more:

Group a: 1.0% or less in total of at least one of Cu, Ni, Cr, and Mo

Group b: 0.1% or less in total of at least one of Nb, Ti, and V

Group c: 0.0030% or less of B

Group d: 0.0010% to 0.10% in total of at least one of Ca and REM;

rough-rolling the steel slab to form a sheet bar;

finish-rolling the sheet bar at a finishing temperature of 800°C or more;

cooling at a cooling rate of 20°C/s or more within 0.5 second after the finish-rolling; and

slow cooling for 1 to 5 seconds at a rate of 10°C/s or less in the temperature range of 700 to 800°C;

cooling at a rate of 20°C/s or more; and

coiling at a temperature of 450°C or less.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein Al is present in an amount of 0.001% to 0.02%

18. (Cancelled)